REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended. On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended the claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential elements. Applicants respectfully submit that after reading the claims in light of the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate that the system would not retrieve log records if they do not match the specified search conditions, as the purpose of the search is to retrieve log records that match. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,222,536 B1 (Kihl) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,182,086 B1 (Lomet).

The Examiner alleged that Kihl does not explicitly teach retrieving and sending log records. In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Lomet for the claimed retrieving and sending operations, specifically indicating which part of Lomet's disclosure allegedly teaches the retrieving operation. The Examiner, however, provides no specific reason as to why Lomet allegedly discloses the sending operation of claim 1, for example.

Claim 1, paragraph (d), recites, ". . . consulting the log memory to retrieve log records of past replies that were made to inquiries about the same subject as a new pending inquiry. . . ." Paragraph (e) then recites "sending the second client the retrieved log records of past replies, together with the new pending inquiry directed to the second client."

Applicants respectfully submit that Lomet fails to disclose the above-identified operations for at least the following reasons:

"In the client-server system of Lomet, a client (for client-side application) sends a request to a server and the server returns a reply to the requesting client. According to Lomet, the client creates log records for each request and reply messages that it exchanges with the server (Lomet, column 11, lines 55-67). In the claimed system, it is a service process that sends an inquiry and it is a client that returns a reply to the requesting process.

7

If it were a fact that Lomet discloses the retrieving and sending operations of claim 1, then the client would consult its log records to retrieve past reply messages concerning a new request and send the retrieved reply messages to the server, together with the new request. The client of Lomet, however, does not operate as such. Rather, the client and server in Lomet keep log records for recover purposes. *See* Lomet, column 15, line 60 – column 18, line 9. A part of the summary section also mentions recovery from a crash. *See* Lomet, column 5, lines 17-37.

More specifically, Lomet explains that, during recovery (or reply), the client regenerates requests from the logged operations, and resubmits the requests to the server (column 5, lines 18-23). This means that the client consults the log records of past request and reply messages when sending a request to the server in a special situation (that is, recovery from a crash). But Lomet is silent as to the client sending records of reply messages received in the past, together with a new request. Rather, Lomet explicitly states: "Upon receiving a request, the server recovers the corresponding reply from the server's stable log file and returns the reply" (column 5, lines 23-25). This passage indicates that there is no need for the client to send past received reply messages back to the server, thus teaching away from the features recited in paragraphs (d) and (e) of claim 1.

As claim 2 depends from claim 1, claim 2, via is patentable over the combination of Kihl, Lomet, and Nakagawa, as the cited combination fails to disclose the above-identified operations of claim 1.
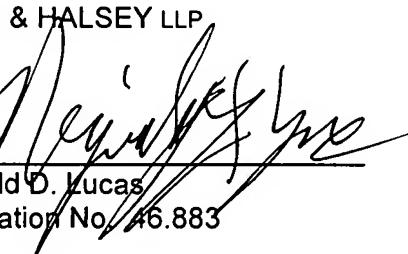
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: __10/15/07__   By: _____
                            Reginald D. Lucas
                            Registration No. 46.883

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500

Facsimile: (202) 434-1501